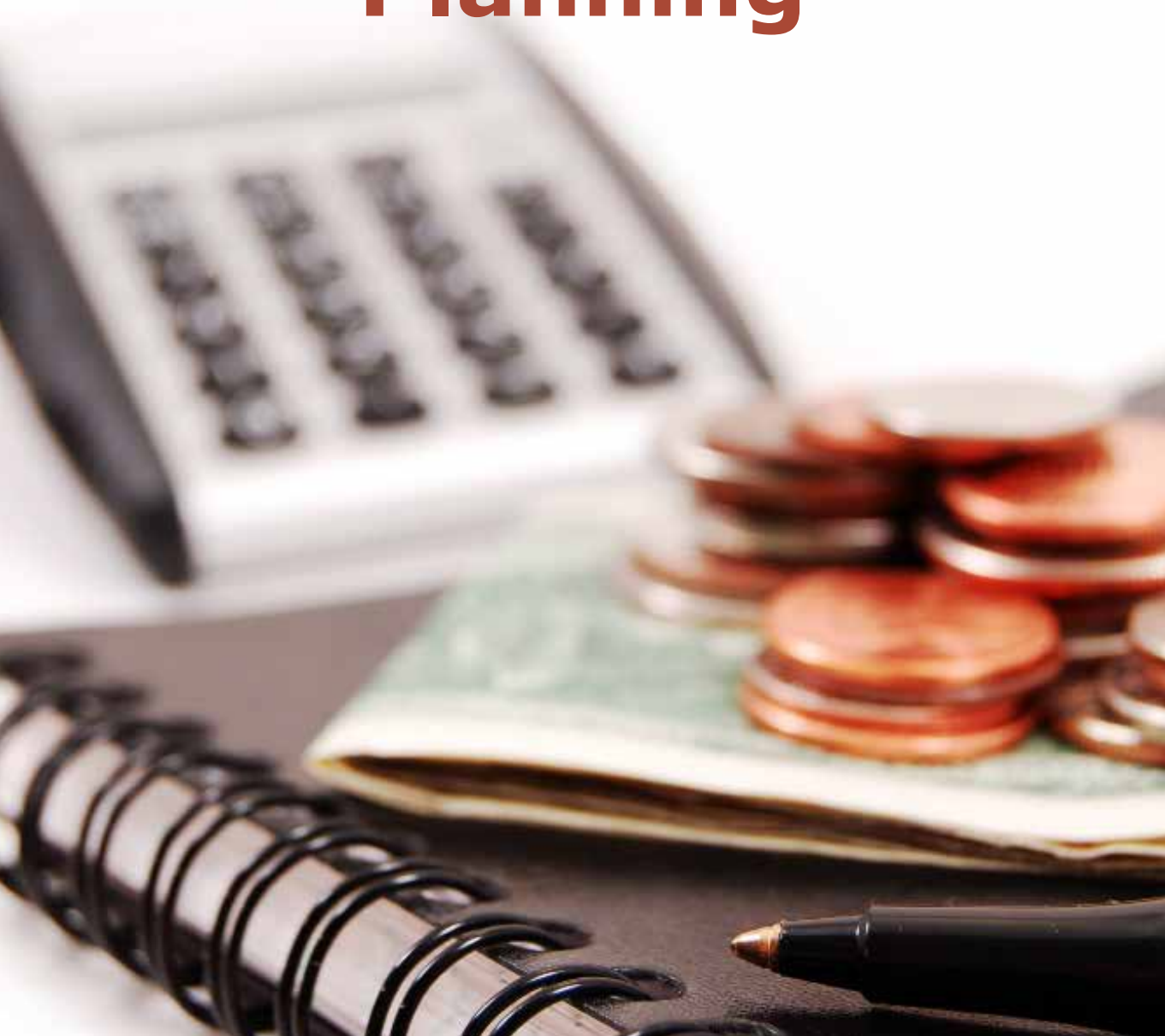


Premium Christening Ideas

Christening Budget Planning



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Just like with any large family celebration, one of the most important things of organizing a christening is planning the budget. It's useful to think out and write down a detailed allocation of funds by making a preliminary estimate for the celebration. Seeing the figures on paper will be much more convenient than keeping them in your head; this way you can be sure that you didn't miss anything and you will see how much preparations for the christening will cost you. Planning will go much more smoothly once you have a list of your planned expenses; you will see where you can save, what items and services are still missing, and what you already have. This estimate can double as a checklist for items that you will need for the christening. Even if you already have some of the things on the list (for example, a dress or shoes), you can just put a plus sign in the price column. By including things you already have in the list, you can be sure that you haven't forgotten anything.

It is also worth knowing that planning a celebration budget is not just about the successful allocation of funds, but also the saving thereof. How much you spend and how much you save depends on you, so it's always worth making an effort. The earlier

you order services and purchase the necessary items, the more you will save. If you are aiming for a low-budget christening, then first and foremost establish what your priorities are for the celebration. Decide which part of the day is more important to you – the ceremony or the reception. What do you want more – splendid attire for you and your baby, or a beautifully decorated setting? Which will you allot a larger part of your expenses to?

Even if financial savings is not an issue for you and you want to and are able to allot an unlimited amount of money to the christening, planning is still unavoidable. In the past years, people have started preparing for christenings well in advance – reception venues are reserved and attire is selected several months before the celebration; therefore, planning is necessary not only to save money, but also to ensure that you get the services you desire.

Below is a sample of a budget planning estimate. You can print it and fill it out by hand, or you can use it as a basis for your own preliminary estimate, adding your own columns to suit the subtleties of your celebration.

Preliminary Christening Estimate

CLOTHES			
Description	Comments	Quantity	Price
Clothes for the baby			
Accessories for the baby			
Footwear for the baby			
Clothes for Mom			
Shoes for Mom			
Accessories for Mom			
Clothes for Dad			
Shoes for Dad			
Accessories for Dad			
Total:			
BAPTISM ACCESSORIES			
Description	Comments	Quantity	Price
Baptism cape			
Baptism candle			
Decoration for the candle			
Blanket			
Total:			

INVITATIONS

<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Price</i>
Invitations			
Thank you cards			
Total:			

CEREMONY

<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Price</i>
Church fee			
Decorating the church (services and materials)			
Music during the ceremony			
Total:			

RECEPTION

<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Price</i>
Venue fee			
Food			
Alcohol and soft drinks			
Cake			
Total:			

GIFTS

<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Price</i>
Gift for the baby			
Thank you gifts for the godparents			
Small gifts for the grandparents			
Favors for the guests			
Total:			

DECORATIONS			
Description	Comments	Quantity	Price
Decorating the venue			
Table decorations			
Balloons			
Sky lanterns, fireworks			
Flowers			
Total:			

PARTY ACCESSORIES			
Description	Comments	Quantity	Price
Badges for the guests			
Place cards			
Guest book			
Props for games			
Photo album			
Total:			

OTHER EXPENSES			
Description	Comments	Quantity	Price
Photographer fee			
Photographs			
Videographer fee			
Additional CDs or DVDs			
Music during the reception			
Lodging for guests			
Parking fees			
Transportation/taxi fees			
Beauty services (coiffure, make-up, manicure and pedicure)			
Total:			

GRAND TOTAL